

Robert Curvin: I got the machine on now. And, uh, we're gonna start by, I'm just gonna say this is Tiny Prince. Now your your — actually your name is Brinson?

Carl Brinson: Carl Alexander Joseph Brinson.

RC: Carl Alexander Joseph Brinson.

CB: Mm-hm. My mother is Danny's sister.

RC: Danny Gibson's sister. Right.

CB: (nods) Danny's sister.

RC: Now, when — where were you born?

CB: Newark.

RC: And you were born in Newark. And at what hospital or at home?

CB: No hospital.

RC: At home.

CB: At the time that I was born, they weren't letting Black people be born in the city hospitals. You understand? You'd be at — you know, you'd be born at home. At your home or wherever you were renting or wherever. And what would happen only if there was some kind of emergency with the woman would they take the child and the woman into the hospital. Now at the same time, let me say this, my grandfather never was a whatcha call a working stiff. He always was into something. When he died he was already working with the — I don't know whether it was the Courthouse or the new building that they built in the back of it, the Hall of Records. But he was working there. On top of that if uh, everybody, I know a lot of people don't remember it, but down on the corner of Washington Street

and Court was a precinct. There was a captain in it who got shot by his girlfriend. Wasn't a black woman it was a white woman shot him. Him and my grandfather they—

RC: What year was this?

CB: Oh I can't I don't know the years but him and my grandfather were partners in a bootlegging business.

RC: Is that right?

CB: Oh yeah and uh just to show you what I'm talking about if you get Barbara Kukla's book she's got my grandfather's club in there.

RC: Uh-huh.

CB: Called the Radio Inn on Halsey Street. And the number is 2 or 377 Halsey. Now that wasn't where the club was. The club was across the street. They tore it down. There used to be a little bar across the street from them The Savoy which we knew later on as the Savoy, it was just a bar didn't do anything but sell whiskey. But across the street on top of the building was a building made like a house but in it was a club. When I was a kid they used to take me across the street and say pick up the bottles and put 'em in the basket and when you count 'em we gonna give you a nickel. Well, a nickel. Then I was a rich man.

RC: Right (laughs).

CB: You know, a lot of people would say to me, Tiny what did you know about it? I said, "Oh my aunts and them would help me I said I could only go up to 50 cent you know".

RC: Right. I'm gonna stop you. Go back and restart.

CB: Well see you know 90% of the people that I know in the street, you know, where I grew up they never knew that I didn't have a mother and a father. I had, you know, my father had been married to my mother but my mother died when I was a year old. And my two sets of grandparents my mother's father father, they took over. And my father's people they said, well what are we worried about him for. He's gonna be taken care of. And that's what I was.

RC: So, where were your parents from? Where did they come from?

CB: (laughs)

RC: Cause they weren't born in Newark?

CB: No. No, let me tell you somethin'. I don't know whether my mother was born here in Newark or not. But my grandparents on my, on my mother's side he came from Virginia. And from Virginia he went to Washington and I think that's where he met my grandmother. And they married and they came to Newark.

RC: I see.

CB: You understand? Now nobody has ever said to me where was your mother born. And my father I'll tell you where he came from. He came out of Burlington County — Mount Holly.

RC: Burlington County?

CB: Burlington County in South Jersey

RC: South Jersey?

CB: In Mount Holly, New Jersey

RC: Mount Holly

CB: And Mount Holly was a little town. I used to remember because I used to go down there on the holidays. You know like on Thanksgiving and times like that. If I wasn't going with one parent, one parent's family, I was going with the other.

RC: Uh-huh.

CB: It was never a time when somebody said well we don't want him. They said well no I— we'll take him with us.

RC: Yeah.

CB: He's going to be with us on Christmas. He'll be with you on New Year's. So you know I always had that going. And as far as me, what I had, my clothes (vocalizes). In fact when I went to school I started at the Robert Treat. At Robert Treat. My great grandmother and my grandmother lived on Rector Street. Rector Street was a two block street. Now on the end by South Orange Avenue my grandfather had it. I never lived in a place that my grandfather didn't own it. Now I don't know and you know and I heard, I heard a lot of stories about him but I didn't pay that no mind because I never knew anything about it. All I knew that I never lived in a house, like guys would be bragging I said hell I never lived in a house that my grandparents didn't own.

RC: Now you said was it your grandfather that was in the bootlegging business?

CB: Yeah yeah. He never—As far as money was concerned I never heard him say—I never knew until they used to tell me when I went to school that my great-grandmother would say “Well are you giving him allowance” or something like that. My great-grandmother said that. Not my grandmother. You know, not my father's people or my mother's people. This was what my great-grandmother said. She had a history of living on Rector Street and here's an elderly woman. A great-grandmother rather. And I used to go and stay with her after school, right, which I can only, I only had to walk. It wasn't even a

block to walk to Robert Treat. You understand? When, when what she would be doing which I learnt, you know, after I got a little (unintelligible) I didn't realize what she was doing. Cause I thought she owned the two buildings. There was 19 and 23. She lived in 19 on the second floor. There was three floors and on each floor there's like railroad flats. You know, both going like this. Now, she took care of 19 and 23. See remember we didn't have electric lights yet, you had some kind of fluorescent gas or something. She would go and put them lights on every night. And put up, take 'em off. She would see that the garbage got taken out of the back and put in the front. Anything that you had a argument or something about your apartment, you had to talk to her.

RC: I see, so she was like the caretaker.

CB: That's right. Now I don't know who she was doing it for.

RC: Who she worked for.

CB: But that—

RC: That was her job.

CB: That was her job. Now you said well where was your great-grandfather. My great-grandfather worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Went to work every day. And it was like this— He was dark-brown skinned but mute. He didn't say much, much. He only talked to her. He didn't, he never talked to like, you know, I seen him talk to other people. But he never had a lot to say. If she said something about her great-grandson, he'd say, alright I'll get it. That's the way it was. If I wanted something I used to cry to my grandmother, I want this, I want—She'd say, well you keep quiet and maybe you'll get it. You know, don't run your mouth. And that's what I used to do. Tell, you know I'd tell her.

RC: Now, do you have any idea if your grandfather who was in the bootleg business was working for any of these syndicates that were emerging? Was this during Prohibition?

CB: (Nods, some unintelligible)

RC: This was during Prohibition. So there were a lot of organized crime. Like, I'm sure you remember Zwillman.

CB: Longie Zwillman

RC: Longie, yeah.

CB: Yeah yeah.

RC: Did you ever meet him?

CB: I met him too.

RC: You did?

CB: On Prince Street.

RC: Really?

CB: Yeah.

RC: Tell me about him.

CB: Because he was—Well, I got a book on him. Cause I went to the lib— I don't know how I got the book. I don't think I got it through the library.

RC: Uh-huh.

CB: Cause I went to the library and asked for that book for somebody else and they didn't have it.

RC: Uh-huh.

CB: They told me maybe I could get it at someplace else.

RC: Right.

CB: But, ugh, Longie Zwillman, you know, lotta— See when I ran into him, see. How you do, you come back. When the Muslims—when the young Muslims came, not the Moorish Americans. Remember the Moorish Americans were like, I asked somebody, well where were the Moorish Americans? They didn't even know where the Moorish Americans were.

RC: Right.

CB: I said well they were here before the Muslims.

RC: Right.

CB: I said and they were on Court Street.

RC: Right.

CB: I said on the right hand side if we were going east. On the left hand side if we were going west— [They said] Damn Tiny, you remember everything. I said no, no. See, lemme say this. I just want to tell you, I don't want to tell every—the whole world. They don't realize how old I am. You know they meet guys that are eighty, sixty-five and so on (?).

RC: So how old are you this year, 92?

CB: 92.

RC: Wow!

CB: May the 12th next year I'll be 93.

RC: Wow.

CB: You understa—

RC: And you're still driving?

CB: Yes, I'm still driving.

RC: (Laughs) Amazing.

CB: (Laughs) Listen.

RC: You are amazing.

CB: Lemme tell you something. With—Well I learnt. I did learn a lot of things through my grandfather. Because somebody said, "did he ever beat you or anything", no. My grandfather, only thing he would do—I only seen him hit one person in my life. And that was my uncle. My uncle was a musician and he started going with Hal Mitchell. Who was a prop—a popular guy, and not only that, could play trumpet like crazy. And what happened with him he uh, was married. He had gotten married. His wife had his first child—

RC: Wanna take that tea bag out? Now. It's gonna be too strong. I gave you some lemon, I don't know if you like lemon.

CB: Yes I do.

RC: OK.

CB: But anyway, I remember my grandfather said to him, "You can't go on the road when you got a wife and kid." And we were living in my grandparents' house. We lived with him. He said you can't do that. And I never heard—The way my uncle did, my uncle, said some, made some kind of smart remark, he'd do what he wanted. Phew. He was standing on the steps and my grandfather hit him, knocked him up on another step. Phew. And then my grandmother just came, looked at him, said Alfred, you shouldn't 'a did that. She's talking to my grandfather. I — just walked up. Was coming up the steps. And I said,

grandma, what's happening? She said Carl go in the kitchen and get a towel. And I got a towel, she said put some water on it. And I put some water, and she came out and started bathing his face. And that's all she said. My grandfather didn't say nothing and walked away. Just walked away, walked into the other room.

RC: Wow.

CB: Now she went in there and started talking—She shut the door and started talking to him. Right.

That's all it was. No hollering. No body make—I guess I was the only one saying anything because I was taking care of my uncle.

RC: Right.

CB: And then my uncle got up, he went up to his room. You understand. Two weeks later he was home.

That's the way it was. We, you know, never, my grandfather never tried to kill anybody, but—Everybody knew that he wasn't to be played with.

RC: Wasn't to be played with.

CB: He, he would tell you something and like me just like that guy said, "didn't your grandfather ever," see my grandfather, I said listen the worst person in my family were the grandwomen, cause they would beat you with a broom. You know, they'd just take broom and start beating you with the broom.

RC: Right.

CB: You know, you had to run to keep, to get out of their way. Cause, you you, couldn't stand and you didn't do no back talk like the kids do today. Wasn't none of that. Hell I ain't never said nothing to my grandma [like], "Grandma, grandma you hurt me." "Yeah well you oughta behave yourself." That's what she would say to me.

RC: Right.

CB: You know, and uh, I had to laugh at it. Because all my life them, my great-grandparents I didn't even know when they passed. You know what I mean. But I remember that my great-grandfather passed first. And my great grandmother was behind her.

RC: Right.

CB: But my grandparents and my father's mother. Uh she—When I had the first house that I bought on my own I went to get her! I said, "Hey, I got a house, two family house. I want you to live in here." You know what she told me?

RC: When did you buy this house?

CB: Uh 10 East Runyon Street.

RC: When?

CB: I—Oh I bought it. I bought it after I was married.

RC: I see.

CB: And I was up on Belmont Avenue. I got involved with Mr. Graham who owned the Masonic Temple. Who they bought it from.

RC: I see.

CB: And I was close with people like that because they gave dances and I was very interested in promotions. In fact, I would have been promoting had not my father died during that time. And I was working, I had a job. You know, you know. And I had a couple children. And uh, somebody said, well now what are you gonna do Tiny? I said what am I gonna do, I'm gonna bury him. He's my father. I know

what he liked. I know what he used to do. And uh—the sad part about it. The Christmas before, and he died in 1950.

RC: 1950.

CB: Before my father died—I bought him, I'll never forget it. I, I thought I was being successful. I had a job, I was taking care of my family. I bought him a suit and an overcoat. Right.

RC: Uh huh.

CB: So when he passed, I asked his mother, where is his suit? She said—I asked my grandmother. She said, Carl, can I tell you something? Your father put that suit in a pawn shop. Ritchie's, over on, used to be on West, uh, Springfield Ave. So I said oh my god, didn't he ever wear it. She said he wore it once, to show you, but he didn't wear it no more. I find out where that ticket was and I went and got that suit and that's what I buried him in.

RC: Mm hm.

CB: When I buried him, Wigham just had got in business. Charlie Wigham.

RC: Charlie—Wow.

CB: A lot of people say, Tiny, you know Charlie? I say, "The hell are you talking about? Of course I know Charlie." I say, "I knew him when we were on West Market Street at Grove's Pharmacy." Remember Grove's Pharmacy?

RC: Mm0 hm.

CB: We all used to go in there and sit and uh Charlie was living there in Richmond Street. Him and his wife both. They weren't married. They were going together. They were always, the nice couple that everybody appreciated until they got married.

RC: Tell me how, what you remember about Zwillman. I want to get to Turner but I want to hear what you— what your observations were about how he operated in the community and how, my sense is that (clears throat) I interviewed Charlie Matthews years ago. And he was telling me how Zwillman was so supportive of the black community and uh, you know, got people jobs and uh, was very interested in Charlie as a politician. Of course he had his own stuff

CB: Yeah.

RC: That was going on. What do you remember about it?

CB: Well I always thought, see, well what I wanted to say to you—

RC: Yeah.

CB: The Muslims who were—I never was an enemy with the Muslims.

RC: Yeah.

CB: The young Muslims that came up behind Mr. Muhammad Ali. But here's what happened—They would always say to me, the Jews were this and the Jews were that and I used to always say, "Don't say that." I said, "Because you weren't here when the Jewish people were the only ones that gave the Black people the jobs." I said, "Remember, the Irish did not give us jobs."

RC: Right.

CB: I'd say, "If you knew anything about the history of Newark—". They don't know that Greeks lived in the Central Ward with a very few Italians who were mostly Jews. You understand? The Greeks didn't have no use for us but the Jews did. I said and I said no matter what I think about 'em, I always have to remember that. You know, no matter how high you see Blacks go, you remember what these people did for our people. You know? And they say, Well they used to have nothing but a bunch of junk and stuff. I

said, "Yes, but we worked for them." I said, "I even remember after school, getting a job after school to do something with the Jews."

RC: Mm-hm.

CB: I said well (unintelligible) I didn't like 'em. They put money in my pocket that I had never seen money before, you know, yes I thought about the little money that I got when I was growing up. You know, that was my grandfather, grandmothers always gave me something. You know, right up until that time that they were unable to do it. They always took care of me. So I couldn't say that they didn't but at the same time I gotta remember the Jews that did it for other people.

RC: Right.

CB: You understand? So, I can never go out and say they weren't no good cause that wouldn't be telling the truth.

RC: So Zwillman though was, he was part of this Jewish community that was—

CB: That's right. He was—

RC: That was generous

CB: He was—

RC: To the black people.

CB: Whether you wanna believe it or not, he was the type of guy that, he didn't come around and lord you and love you (unintelligible) but he would give you something.

RC: Mm-hm.

CB: Because see, ninety percent of them people don't know how, where the, where the—What's the boy's name? Emory Hall? Where did he come from? How did he come? Why was it that he was so

entied with the Jews and the Jew gangsters? See, we always looking at the movies because and I knew this (*unintelligible*) and it's just my lifetime thinking. All these pictures you always make, it's always portraying Italians. But the Italians were not first. See, the community out there, they don't even understand how crime came on. It wasn't, it wasn't that the Italians got in it, the Irish were in it too, so was the English. You know what I mean? They don't understand, it just graduated. Now, if we look at them TV things that they have, like out in Watts and all these other cities, there always was some Blacks following what the white people did.

RC: Right.

CB: They didn't come in with nothing of their own as far as this— and this guy, (*unintelligible*) he was in it deeper than any of us because who the hell ever heard of the Wiggles and the two bakeries baking bread side by side! Why, if you talk to a Negro about getting something with a Black person on the next door, he don't wanna hear that. He thinks he's got to be alone. You know? I'm gonna show you something. I had, my first children were three girls. So somebody said, "Well Tiny as you were growing up what did you do with your children." I said, "Let me tell you something, I would never buy one of 'em anything that I didn't buy the other two. I said and I—Just to show you part of the Jews, with my own stuff. I'd go like on— around at Easter time, and all the kids, definitely had to have suits or have somebody make 'em some clothes, or something, for Easter, right? So I'm going to buy shoes, so I go to one of these guys with what they, they were wearing, black, everybody would have black patent leather shoes for girls. And I never forget, I went into the store and the guy said, I got two of 'em your size but I don't have the other pair. And he looked all around and know what he said to me? He said I'm sorry I don't have the third pair. I said well I can't show these to the kids until I get another pair. He said, "Go next door." I don't— this is what he said to me, "I don't like the son of a bitch but, go next door."

RC: (Laughs) Right.

CB: So this shows you—

RC: It shows you, yeah—

CB: How they thought.

RC: Right. At least you'd be helping somebody in their community.

CB: We had never got into that.

RC: Right.

CB: You know, I'd watch guys grow up, and there were a lot of people, you know. Like the guys say, Tiny, sometimes I see you go with them white guys and they all like you. All talk to you. I say, "Yeah because I know his father was so-and-so." So, I say, "He was a thug but I knew him, when I was growing up, you know what I mean?" They'd say, Well Tiny—

RC: So, did you ever know anybody that worked in the policy business with Zwillman? A lot of people did, right?

CB: Let me show you something.

RC: OK.

CB: The Jews, put us in.

RC: Right.

CB: Later the Italians put us in too.

RC: Right.

CB: You understand? Zwillman—

RC: So they would hire blacks as runners?

CB: Yes. You know what I mean?

RC: The Jews hired blacks. Zwillman hired blacks as runners. Those were the guys that walked through the buildings in the neighborhoods and collected the numbers, right?

CB: That was the reason, one of the reasons why Emory Hall was so bad in this town. I watched police, uh—cops come up with their cars and say to him, Emory, they want you at the precinct. Now they were supposed to lock him up. He'll say, I'll be there later.

RC: Uh huh. So, he was a big policy guy in the Third Ward.

CB: Yeah, yeah, now I would look at them guys. You know (?), there were other guys but they went into legitimate business. Henry Graham, was one. Uh, the other one was from out in North Newark, who was uh—I can't think of his name, but he was, 'cause they were the ones that start running the big dances for people.

RC: Right.

CB: Cash. You know, all of em in the city (?) become big guys. Let me show you something.

RC: What was the guy's name, Teddy Powell?

CB: Oh no, Teddy—

RC: What about Teddy? Teddy was later?

CB: No Teddy was a promoter, later.

RC: Yeah, he was a promoter.

CB: Yeah he was a promoter, he came out of Elizabeth.

RC: Oh I see.

CB: He came out of Elizabeth. Came here, joined Henry Graham. At the same time when Teddy came here and joined up with Mr. Graham, I was, I tell you what I used to do. Somebody would say, "Tiny how the hell did you know something about the music? Or who's hot?" They'd say, everybody would come to you, why did they come to you? Well first of all, let me tell you something. I'm the kind of guy, I pick up everything and read it. It's like at my house, I ordered, I get the Daily News and I get the Star Ledger, I used to get the Times and everything else. They don't serve my purpose. Because they don't give me about Newark that I want. One thing about you can watch in the Daily News, you'll find something in there about New Jersey, somewhere.

RC: Right.

CB: You understand?

RC: Right.

CB: Now, even the Star Ledger, which it was, you know we have arguments about names. I said, "What papers did you know?" "Oh I know the Ledger." I'd say, "What was the Ledger's name?" Just ask anybody. They don't know what the Ledger, I say, "That used to be the Newark Star Ledger." I said, "Same as the Newark Evening News. You guys don't know that? Well you're going to school every day, you should learn all these things about your city." And 'cause one time, I got a program on WNJR. And somebody said to me, "How the hell did you get on WNJR?" She said, "You said you don't care for rock—", I said, "Well it's music but I don't care as much for rock as I do for jazz 'cause I grew up with jazz." I said, I said. "But, wanna know something?" He said, "When you were on the station weren't they a rock and roll?" I say, "No, I say you don't even know nothing about the things that come to you." I said, "The Newark Evening News owned WNJR. It was sold out to the Rawlins(?) people who were coming from the South with the rock and roll groups." They say, God damn, Tiny, you know everything. No I don't know everything, I read though and I'm quite sure that I'm up on what's going on. It's just like the lady that

worked for Kean. That was, when she came here, she was put in charge of WNJR because they were in trouble. And the guy said, "You didn't know her?" I said, "No I didn't know her but I met her later." I said "When I was the Affirmative Action officer for the city of Newark, you understand, and she, they found out that I had created a program for minorities." And out of the Human Rights Agency we got the notice on what we could do. Any white contractors that came to Newark, which, now I know the mayor, our mayor, the new mayor don't do a damn thing cuz he don't know anything. And, I'm not, like the guy said, "Well you don't like him, Tiny." No no no. Understand, I like the man, but he, to me, he should have picked up two or three people who are from Newark, who been around politics, who could tell him what he shouldn't do. I said he did -- In fact I wrote it in one of these columns. I talked about it. They say, Tiny, you cold man. I say no, no I'm not cold, I'm just telling the truth. I tell him in this column about what he didn't do. I said, and then you throw out the people, from your city? Nobody does that. I said, you tell me of any mayor that you read of in a major city that ever threw out all the people that worked for the city.

RC: From the city?

CB: From the city.

RC: Who lived in the city?

CB: Who lived in the city. You don't throw them out. You keep them and you learn. Even if you or I go on a job, if you were going to be the boss you ain't gonna throw out nobody.

RC: Mm hm.

CB: Because you don't know what they know and what they could tell you. That is one of the biggest things. And you know, I was talking to Danny, one day, he said, "Oh you're so cold." He said, "What do you think about it?" I said, "This guy's, he gotta be crazy. He comes into the city and what he did to the

people, and then he says he's gonna be the best mayor." I said, "Look, I'm not mad at him." We met a couple times on the street. And he's with his group and he said, can I come to the meeting with Ken Gibson? I said you can come anytime you want, because when you first came here he extended that to you. But you haven't followed it up. I said. "First of all, those are old guys." Some of 'em new but like Ken'll anybody. They'd come in saying, well I wanna know something about old time I wanna know about – he'll say oh no, you gotta talk to Tiny, 'cause Tiny was with them people. You understand? You know, when the guy said, "I know you got rich", I'd say, "Oh no. I never asked for anything." I always had my own job. I said, "And you don't understand, I'll tell ya." I became lucky because when Addonizio came in I was working part time for Dan Esposito who founded the Oldsmobile place up in East Orange, 352 Central Avenue, Dan Esposito. Now, I met him through his father, his father was a gym teacher over at Morton Street School. I met him, and he started talking with me and he said to me, "Tiny, I want you to meet my son." I went over, I started talking to him. He was at Murphy's Oldsmobile on 1st and Dickerson. You understand? I went there, he was a salesman. We start talkin. I brought him a couple of customers. He'd say, "Hey Tiny—he told me one day, you know, if I ever get a business, I want you to be in it." I was laughing at him cuz wasn't no blacks selling no cars.

RC: Right.

CB: Yes Cash and them were sayin' it, but I thought that Cash and them were workin' for a new car dealership. They were workin' for lots.

RC: Mm hm.

CB: Him and the guy that was, Democratic—Listen, I don't even wanna tell people what we did. We had a—listen, what was the name, what was the Democratic Chairman of the Central Ward?

RC: Honey?

CB: No, not Honey.

RC: Not Charlie?

CB: No. You know of a— oh he'd sell cars... He just died about a year or two ago.

RC: Oh really?

CB: Yeah, he lived up here in Orange.

RC: Hmm.

CB: Not Cash. Uh—

RC: He lived up on 7 Oaks you mean. The guy—

CB: No, he had a house.

RC: He had a house, yeah.

CB: On that main street.

RC: Oh I see.

CB: Right in back, you know where the hospital is.

RC: Yeah.

CB: The main street that runs cross, runs right to centr—

RC: Right.

CB: To uh—

RC: I think I remember who you mean. I can't think of his name.

CB: Well him.

RC: Yeah.

CB: All of them guys had lots or worked for people at lots. When I met Dan Esposito he said to me, he said to me, when I get my place. Well he didn't, the first time he got a place was out in Rahway.

RC: Uh huh.

CB: Now, this is where I took a couple of guys with me one time one time, [inaudible] I wanna show you something. So we went out there to talk to him and he told me, he said, "Tiny, I'm not gonna stay here." He had a small place, only had two cars in the window, out in Rahway. He said to me. So I said, "Danny, what's wrong?" He said, white people will not buy off of me because I'm Italian. Now when he was talking about it, that was way before we got our civil rights bill.

RC: Right.

CB: He said that to me. He said I'm gonna try to get another place. I'm gonna (shakes head), just try to get another place. Sure enough, he did. He got another place and that's when he hired me. When he hired me, here comes Larrie Stalks. Now I—People don't know. Irvine Turner said to me one day, Irvine, said to me, "Tiny, we're going to Washington on Monday. Can you come with us?" I said, "Well you know, I'm working, Irvine." He said, "Well, try to take off." He thought I had to go and ask. I didn't really have to ask, I'll tell you the reason why. Because whenever I had a job, I worked every day. I never was late. I never caused any confusion on any job I had, I just did it to the max. I always believed in that. You understand? So when I told my boss I had to do something he said, "Take off Tiny, whatever, you can take off." And I took off, to go with Irvine. When I went with Irvine, where the heck do you think I went? We went to Washington to see who? The mayor. The guy that came back to Newark to be the mayor.

RC: Uh huh. To see... Hughie (Hugh Addinizio).

CB: That's right. Went down to see Hughie. We went down, he said what do you guys wanna do? It was me, Jack Hicks, Arthur Love, and Johnny Barnes. Did you know Johnny Barnes?

RC: Mm Hm.

CB: Alright, so you know him, you know he was not a radical. He was the kinda guy— He was the one that kept Irvine and Honey together. 'Cause you know, Honey broke up from us because Dennis Carey took him.

RC: Right.

CB: You know, in fact, I should have brought you that picture. I got a picture of Dennis Carey, Irvine, and uh George Richardson.

RC: Oh really? I gotta see that picture.

CB: Yeah, I'll show it to you.

RC: You gotta show it to me.

CB: So anyway, we went down there, and Hughie told us and I saw--

RC: Well Irvine was working for Hughie already, right?

CB: I know, he helped—

RC: He helped, he made, well he got Hughie elected, actually.

CB: That's what I'm talking about!

RC: Because the Central Ward delivered the votes.

CB: They delivered the votes.

RC: They delivered the votes.

CB: You see, and everybody, when I get to talking with politicians who claim they know everything, and I say to them “Well, when did the Democrats take over the Essex County?” “Oh they always were,” I say, “No they weren’t.”

RC: Right.

CB: I say, “I lived during the time when the guy that was here”, and I said “That was Dennis Carey. “

RC: Right.

CB: That made Essex County, Democratic.

RC: Democratic.

CB: I said, so what are you guys talking about? You guys don’t even know nothing about what you’re talking, you know, about your town. You know? But that’s the truth. But anyway—

RC: Tell me about Irv and how did you—You said you knew him all your life.

CB: Yes.

RC: And uh, so now he, was he born in Newark too?

CB: Can I tell you something?

RC: Because, I read different stories about where he was born.

CB: No, I never heard, hear, Irvine talk about anything but Newark.

RC: But Newark, yeah.

CB: And see the reason why I said it, because I know that my uncle, my uncle was raised in Newark. You understand?

RC: Yeah.

CB: He went to—My uncle, when he graduated, he went to the Catholic High School—I can't think of it. That street is gone.

RC: Uh huh.

CB: You know how you come down Market Street? Now if you cross High Street, which was High Street, but now it's Martin Luther King.

RC: Right.

CB: Alright, now remember as you went down there was a short street, remember the Catholics? There elwas a church, on one side, and on the back street there was a Catholic School, and church. Right? Well now that's where he graduated from.

RC: I see.

CB: He went to school with all white kids. He used to tell me about it. He said—

RC: Where did Irvine go to school?

CB: I really, I don't know where, but all I know, when I met Irvine, Irvine was trying to—he was with Mr. Clark. And they had on West Market Street. Up over, used to be a florist there. Over the top of it, that was his office. And Irvine used to—Irvine was first selling real estate. That's what the first thing he was doing. You understand? And then he, him and Mr. Clark—see because, the reason why I can tell you about him because the Herald News was here and they were fighting the Herald News and the Herald News was fighting them. Each one wanted to capture the biggest portion of the black community.

RC: I see.

CB: You understand?

RC: The Herald News wanted the portion and the Newark News--

CB: And the Record. No. This had nothing to do with the white papers. This was just the Record.

RC: OK. The Record. Just the black papers.

CB: That was Mr. Clark's paper. They say there is an article that says Mr. Clark also owned part of the Herald News.

RC: Uh huh.

CB: Now, the Herald News didn't come out of Newark.

RC: Right.

CB: Nobody remembers where the Herald News from. The Herald News come from Jersey City—

RC: Jersey City.

CB: The two brothers that ran that New Now (?) mcompany, made that paper.

RC: I see.

CB: And then, they trekked—they were moved over to Spruce Street. At the bottom of the hill right next to that little building, it's a church now but it used to be a hospital. And a lot of people say, "oh Tiny, did you know about the hospital?" "Yeah yeah." And they say, why, how did you know it? I say, "Because Duke Ellington was in there when he was sick."

RC: Really?

CB: Yeah. I got to know him too, pretty well. All during his life—In fact I brought him here. The last dance that Duke did in Newark we did at the Terrace Room for our Easter Monday Ball. I brought Duke and he brought Wild Bill Davis, the organ player, played with the band. The guys say, how do you know him. I say, not only him I know his son too. I say I didn't know his granddaughter but I knew his son. You know what I mean?

RC: Mm hmm. So tell me about Irv.

CB: 'Bout Irv?

RC: Yeah. Did you work on the campaign in '54?

CB: (Shakes head)

RC: No?

CB: Yes. Let me tell you something. Let me tell you how—I knew Irv so a lot of people didn't know him, didn't think I knew him. Oh I got his picture, with Frank Sinatra.

RC: Oh yeah? Oh really?

CB: Frank Sinatra, Irv is sitting in a chair and Frank Sinatra is standing up with his arm around him.

RC: Uh huh.

CB: I'll let you see that photo.

RC: I gotta see that picture.

CB: And I'm not making believe.

RC: No I'm sure. No I'm sure you got it.

CB: In fact when I put it in one of the printers they tried to steal it from me. Some white printers.

RC: Oh really?

CB: Oh they wanted to steal that picture.

RC: Oh, I'm sure.

CB: They're not gonna steal it. And they said, did you know Frank? I said yes. I said I didn't know him personally, at first, but I met him through (Asa Langley?) who used to be with the Italian troop over there on Bloomfield Avenue. You understand? They said, how did you know him? I said, come on. If I was in the street and I'm talking with Italians, I'm talking with all kind of politicians. I said, what do you—

RC: You know everybody.

CB: You know you gotta know everybody or you can't deliver what you supposed to deliver.

RC: Right.

CB: You know. (*Unintelligible 42:30*)

RC: So in your estimation, what are the most important things to say about Irv's contribution?

CB: Irv—Let me say this. There has gotta be some records of what he said to the white population or the white politicians about us.

RC: Right.

CB: The, Bob, it's only one thing. I'm sorry I called you—

RC: No no, you call me—Call me Bob.

CB: You know it's one thing that we have never understood. When somebody does something for us, especially when it's good. I'm not talking about ministers cuz churches always do that. But when people try to tell you what you're missing and what you're not getting and what you think you ought to do for yourself and your family. That's the type of person Irving was.

RC: Yeah.

CB: Irving was the kinda guy. Listen, I watched him and when I say this, you know, people look at me. I watched the guys who used to be on Broome Street. I'm talking from Spruce Street on over to Springfield Avenue and that was the baddest section in the world.

RC: Right.

CB: And there was bad guys on that street. I watched one of the fellas who come from (Syril?) Street that I knew a man. I watched him cut a man's throat, right there, where uh, in front of this club... Actually cut the man's throat. You know, everybody can talk about it when you see the movies and all that, but that's crap. To see it, that's an awful thing to see. Do you understand? I mean just drag the man right down and just cut his throat. And we just stand back and look. So, don't tell me about life and don't tell me about people. When people tell you not to do something. Things that you are doing. Irving was that type of guy. I'll tell you something, I watched this guy. Irving would always be dressed never with nothing else but a suit and a shirt and a tie. Right? And this guy said to him—no he was doing something to the kids or something. And Irving said, man, I wouldn't do that if I were you. Now, there were a lot of people standing around who were Irving's friends too. Cuz they were ready to take up, for Irving. But Irving said to him, the guy said, aw listen, I'll kick your so-and-so and so-and-so. Irving started taking off his coat, somebody hold my coat he's gonna kick my (*Unintelligible 45:30*) and honest to god, watch him beat him, with fists. You understand? You know, you gotta remember. Remember the times that we were living in. It wasn't that you came after people with knives. If you had an argument with somebody, see what you can do. And if the right crowd was around, if you didn't want to fight, they'd say, leave 'em alone he don't want to fight. But if you wanted to fight, there would be a fist fight. People would just stand around until you got tired or somebody got tired, no matter which one. And then they'd say, hey man, that's enough. Because I watched Eddie Dow, who was—wasn't even big as I was as far as height. Light weight. Right over on the corner of uh—a block down from Prince, from Broome Street. Howard Street I think and there was a lot out there. And every Saturday, him and this guy would

have a fist fight. The guy came from Down Neck now, he came from down on Washington Street. He lived in that area. Him and Eddie Dow would come take their shirts off. And everybody'd be waiting for 'em. We'd watch them fight and they would fight for maybe an hour or more. Until somebody said, that's enough. And they'd say, alright I'll see you next week. Now that's the kind of (*Unintelligible 47:15*).

RC: Was this a, kind of a feud going on?

CB: Just a feud.

RC: A feud. Yeah.

CB: No knives. Nobody cuttin' nobody.

RC: But it wasn't just recreation. They were mad at each other.

CB: No, these were mad. Guys mad at one another. And you watch—

RC: Were they fighting over women?

CB: No.

RC: No.

CB: Wasn't even fighting about no woman.

RC: Nothing.

CB: It was just about, who, you think you're better than me? I come from here and you come from there, right?

RC: Mm hm.

CB: That's right. I think the guy that was fighting, his name was MacDaniels. And he was bigger than Eddie. But, he couldn't beat Eddie. Everybody knew it, said, man that Eddie Bower can fight. He's a little guy. Now he was a guy that trained with Sugar Ray Robinson. And Sugar used to come here. You know, people didn't know, Sugar used to come here on Somerset Street. He came to see a lady there on Somerset Street. We'd all be waiting around his car. He never came by himself. He came with other people. You know, and then one day we get to talking and laughing and the guys would say, he's got a place in New York Tiny, did you ever go to his place? I said no, I heard of it. My, a fellow was working with me after hours. Cuz I started after hours in 1949. With Harry Weber. And uh, Al Madison. Al Madison was an artist. Mr. Weber was a real editor. Cuz he wrote, he wrote the Life of Van Cleef. I think it was for the Pittsburgh Courier, it was one of them papers. He wrote the life, and that's down in the library. Can't tell me these people didn't exist. Or what they didn't do. Because I knew em' all and they knew me.

RC: Now, you think Irving was a good politician?

CB: He was talking about things that nobody else would talk about. That's all. He always talked about, for the people. He never, it never was about him. He never said, I am this. He never said that. And you know, I think Irv like everybody else. Everybody else thought that he would be the first person to be the black mayor. Of course he was sick a number of times. People didn't recognize that. They just thought he got old but he had been sick.

RC: He had several strokes.

CB: And, you remember the lawyer's office? Remember the doctors had a building there on High Street right across (*Unintelligible 50:00*). They told him one time that he could have, he said he wanted to speak from the steps. You know, from the front of the building. And they gave him permission to do that. Well, let me tell you something, he must have had about, I'll say easily, a thousand or two

thousand people out there waiting for him to speak. And you know the bus, the 5 (Kinney?) used to come up Court Street, turn over and go to Spruce Street, and go on up right?

RC: Right.

CB: And the bus would be one or two buses lined up there and they, they called the cops and tell the cops. Said, that guy's got a crowd out there and we can't turn. The cops would tell 'em, go to the next block and go over. I mean, that's just about how strong he was at the time.

RC: They didn't mess with him.

CB: They didn't mess with him, and the people, let me tell you something. The people wouldn't move, they just be standing there (*Unintelligible* 51:00). I used to say, the people are crazy. I'm an observer. I wouldn't go stand out there but they would. And them buses would have to go over. The cops would just put their cars out tell 'em keep going. Go over the next block.

RC: Now this is a hard question, but uh, do you think Irv was an honest man?

CB: Personally, yes.

RC: Yeah.

CB: I think there couldn't be anybody any more honest than he was. Cuz firstly he didn't lie. He didn't have nothing to tell you that was a lie. If he told you something, you could kind of rest assured he knew what he was talking about. There, there are some things though, that maybe you should—some things I think in the library when he was criticized in the city, about, up in the hospital, about blacks not getting the kind of attention that they were entitled to.

RC: Right.

CB: You understand? And he was talking about other things that he was telling the other politicians that they had to, to vote on. And uh, I don't you know, I wasn't following that up, I was just reading what Irving said. And you know, he said these things and wasn't scared to say them. He was—

RC: Now, back in 19...54.

CB: Yeah.

RC: Just before the election.

CB: Yeah.

RC: There were a lot of people in the city, who thought that uh, Yancy should be the candidate. Remember that?

CB: Before Irving start—

RC: Remember that?

CB: Yeah.

RC: And there was this meeting where Irv and his guys, mainly organized by Larry Coggins, got together and went to that meeting and actually ended up taking over the meeting.

CB: Yes.

RC: Were you at that meeting?

CB: No, I wasn't there. But I knew about it.

RC: No. You knew about it.

CB: I knew about it. See, let me say how I really became really in tune with him, not that I knew him. I knew him all the while. There's no question about it, me knowing him.

RC: Right.

CB: I knew him through my uncle. (*Inaudible 53:20*) And they were just like—Alright lemme see. Who were they like? They were just like Cliff (Martin?) who just ran. Cliff is a friend of mine but he's—I don't know where his mind's at.

RC: Yeah (Laughs)

CB: No, really.

RC: Right, yeah.

CB: But Irving was—When Irving said something, everybody listened, got up and said, yeah we gonna do that. Irving's—Now, we didn't do it for we were getting anything out of it.

RC: Right.

CB: Cuz, believe me. I hate to say it. I never got a dime from Irving. I never worked for him, but I did work for him. Do you understand what I'm saying?

RC: Yeah, you were a supporter.

CB: I was a supporter. That's how I went to Washington with him. And they started going—See, remember, I started, me and Harry Weber, started After Hours in 1949.

RC: Wow.

CB: We ran until 19—We were out one year, I remember, before *Jet*. Now remember, here is 3 guys, the only one that is the editor is Harry Weber. Carl was no editor (points at self), but I knew that I could out promote anybody, do you understand? I knew more about promotion than most guys at that time. You understand? Now, here's what happened. When we started the paper, in the years early in the running, well who are we gonna support? He was the only one that was sticking his neck out to run. Now

remember, two people got elected. That woman, there was a woman before Larry (Starks?) a black woman. Uh—oh she was—

RC: She got elected?

CB: Yes, yes she was—She had—

RC: But not from Newark?

CB: No

RC: Oh.

CB: I don't think she come from Newark. But she had the same job that Larry Starks got at the county.

RC: Uh, you don't mean (Grace Malone?)?

CB: No, wasn't Grace Malone.

RC: Grace worked for the city.

CB: Yeah.

RC: A black woman?

CB: A black woman. Brown skin, heavyset.

RC: And had the same job that Larry had?

CB: Had the same job that Larry had.

RC: With the county?

CB: County. Yes, yes. She got elected at the same time that uh—What's this other guy who was a lawyer, and he became, I don't know what he became, a judge. In fact, I'll tell you what he did. He lived on Court Street, uh just up where (Reeney Stark's?) is, you remember Reeney Stark?

RC: Yeah.

CB: You remember? And up Court Street on this side across the street from the center there. There was another—He went to one of the foreign countries as a uh—

RC: Ambassador?

CB: Ambassador.

RC: You're thinking of Herbert Tate.

CB: That's right.

RC: Herb Tate.

CB: Herb Tate. And his son. See, I remember this. His son, later.

RC: Herb Tate Jr.

CB: Yeah. You understand? Herb Tate got elected the same time that woman did.

RC: Now the woman that I remember from, elected to the assembly or to the county?

CB: No, to the county.

RC: The county? As a freeholder?

CB: A freeholder.

RC: Mhm. See, I remember Madelyn Williams from East Orange. Ya know she got elected to the assembly.

CB: (*Unintelligible 57:06*) got the job in the, remember Esther, registry.

RC: A registry job? Oh the registry job.

CB: Yeah with my mother. She was way before Larry.

RC: Before Larry. Oh I see, you're talking about the registry job.

CB: Yeah.

RC: Ohhhh.

CB: But you know it was a black woman.

RC: Yeah. And then she was, you're not thinking of the woman that had been in the union? Teachers.

Was she after Larry or before Larry?

CB: No. This woman was before Larry.

RC: Before Larry.

CB: Way before Larry.

RC: Way before Larry.

CB: Yeah, she was back with the Charlie Matthews, during the Charlie Matthews time.

RC: Oh, in that era, really? Oh really well I don't remember. She was elected?

CB: Yeah, she was elected.

RC: Wow, I'm gonna have to find out about that.

CB: Well check it out. She—

RC: Cuz I missed that one.

CB: She was up there.

RC: Yeah.

CB: When Larry came, they thought that, everybody was talking (Unintelligible 58:06) I knew Larry wasn't first. And then you know, I could tell you some of the things about Larry how she got elected. See, cuz Larry didn't want the job.

RC: She didn't want it?

CB: No, see Larry, she was with Adonizzio in the beginning. Now, she had at one time, they gave Larry 3 or 4 jobs at the same time. She had the health and welfare, she had the—

RC: Planning?

CB: Planning, and she had two other jobs. Because that's when I first got a job with her. Now I didn't get the job from her. See, let me tell you. After I had went with Dan Esposito and here comes Larry. I'm learnin'—not only did I, we start out. I learned printing after that. I tried to go to school during the time Irving was in because I wanted to go to the vocational school. Because they had the kind of press that we needed, which was an offset press. Well, at the time there was white people all in charge and they weren't too anxious about you moving in unless you were working with a company or something like that. They always made excuse, so I couldn't go in. So I went to Irving. Irving tried to get me in, he couldn't do nothing for me. Well, we started learning, I started buying (piece of?) press. Little small ones to learn how to print myself. And I was learning on Whitliff and Academy Street when it was a two-way street. Bob Powell and Ray Brown used to come there on Friday nights and get drunk. Now I remember when he was (*Unintelligible 60:00*). And a boy, a fella by the name of Bob Powell. I don't know, he was very popular too. Not rowdy or nothing. All the white people would hire him to run their places and all that. Now, Bob was a good friend of mine and when I told him I needed a place he said, take the back

room, we don't use it. So I took the back room, put the press in and my office. Here comes after Adonizzio gets elected and he's in. Now I didn't go down town because every time I talked to George he'd say, oh man, the jobs are all taken. I didn't say nothing cuz I didn't care because I was up there with Dan Esposito. I had went up there with him and I got a job. In fact, he (*Unintelligible 1:00:45*) My room went around like this, his like this right here. You understand? Now I'm selling. He sent me to the vocational school. Vocational school was up in uh, up in West Orange. They had classes up there for all salesmen, new salesmen. And there was a fella that was from a Chrysler, not a Chrysler place, Chev—no. A Pontiac place in Kearny. He was the only guy other than me that was eh. All the rest of 'em were white.

RC: Yeah.

CB: Now, we went to learn how to (*Inaudible 1:01:24*) airbag, that kind of training. I got on the floor of Dan Esposito's. I started talking to uh—all these guys. In fact, I didn't know it for quite a while, somebody pointed it out, said, hey Tiny, you the only black salesman around here. I said what do you me—

*Video and audio cut out from (1:01:40 – 1:16:45)

CB: Yeah you know. Uh. [*inaudible*]

RC: So you were the only Blacks in the...two of you?

CB: Yeah.

RC: How many people in the group?

CB: Must've been about 30.

RC: About 30?

CB: Yeah. We got to meeting 'em and I'll say this I didn't have no problems with them. In fact when I left they was hollering at me and saying "Hey Tiny! When we gonna see you? When you coming to our place?" or summin' like that. And I said no, nah. I wanna learn what I can here first. And that's when I went....well that's when Larrie came up and uh somebody said to me this is on Saturday morning. I'm in there fooling with this machine, there was a couple of other people with me they were learning too and this little kid came to the door. He says, "Hey Tiny Prince!" I said, "Yeah?" You know like that you know I'm working I'm trying to learn how to...and he said, "Lady out here wanna see you." I said, "Man, tell em to come around, come across the street and see me." So he didn't say...he disappeared, gone for maybe about 10 or 15 minutes. After a while he comes back and he says, "The lady is Larrie Stalks!" I said, "Oh why didn't you say that before?" So I came right out of there and there was Larrie on the other side leaning up against the car, so she said, "Well what the hell's the matter with you?" Like that. I said, "Well what do you mean Larrie?" She said, "You know Addonizio's in. We want you to come with us." I said, "Larrie. *He* wants me to come?" She said, "Can you help us?" I said, "Yeah". I said, "I thought you know...(man was in there until all hours? Unintelligible). She said, "You need to come down there because he wants to talk to you and he wants you to come and work with us." Like that. I said, "Alright, listen [unintelligible] I said Larrie you gotta [unintelligible]. She says, "Yeah I heard about you up there with that car pit (?). I said "yeah". She said, "Alright anyway". I said "well I'm gonna see what I can do." She said, "what do you mean you're gonna see what you can do? You can come down here and you can work for us." See, let me say this. A lot of people see me always active. You know, when I was working for the city they thought that I was cheating somewhere else. But it wasn't like that. I worked for them from 8:30 to whatever time it was until it was time to get off. When I got off I went to take care of my other business. You understand? Now I had to...I talked to Danny's father and I said, "I don't know I might have to quit." He said, "What for?" So then I told him. Uh, he knew Hugh Addonizio [unintelligible]. He said "uh he going to work for you." He said, "That's good Tiny." He said, "Well." I said

yeah but well good I gotta tell Danny then. He said, "Tiny go in there and talk to him." He ain't gonna do nothing. So sure enough I did I thought the guy was gonna tell me you know to leave. So, he listened. First he was mad at me he said, "I understand that you gonna go work for Hugh Addonnizio". I said, "Well um that's what he asked me to do." So he said me, you know I was really nervous and I had never been nervous about nothing that I ever tried to do like this geez, this man is mad at me, he done give me a job, then I find out that ain't nobody else got this kinda job other than me and uh I said to myself, "I guess he got a right to be mad at me, you know?" So then I said, he says to me, "Alright. Goddamnit you don't work on Saturdays do you?" I said no. "You don't work on holidays do you? You know we work." I said yes. He said, "Well goddamit you just go ahead and you go down there but I want you up here when you get off." I swear.

RC: That's great.

CB: I did 25 years for him.

RC: Wow.

CB: So help me God I did *twenty five* years. He just died the year before last in Florida. Now somebody said, "He didn't like you." I said, "No, let me tell you something. When salesmen got their new cars and I wasn't working there full time I would come up there and the guy said 'Hey you got another car?' I said wait a minute what kind of car. We gave you a 98. Well [unintelligible] I always told em I don't like the big cars. I don't want a 98. They said, "Well you gotta take a 98 or else you ain't gonna get nothing". Oh you...the guys are full of crap. And I'd go in there and me and his nephew he had a nephew who took over after he left, you understand. You know what his nephew said? Heh. "You guys know Tiny don't want that car. Get him what he wants." So I'd say, "You know I want an [unintelligible]." He'd say, "Well go in the back there's a couple cars pick one you like." Cause you know we'd have em you know for a couple of months and he'd transfer you to another car because they would, could sell that car, you

understand. But when I went with Larrie, Larrie [unintelligible] when she said to me, "You know why we're bringing you here because I think I'll be doing some other things. You know. And a lot of people didn't realize that Larrie Stalks was Addonizio's home secretary when he was in Washington.

RC: Absolutely.

CB: But you know the average community people don't know nothing about that. You know. So she said, "I'll be getting some other things so you gonna be doing some other things". It was Carl Sharif went with me out to my place in the East Ward. Carl Sharif. He was working with the...uh...Post Office. He went to work at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. So he said, when Carl Sharif find out he's gonna work with me he said uh, "Uh Tiny, what am I gonna do you know I gotta go to work at 2 o'clock. [unintelligible]. I ain't gonna be here in the morning. Cause I'll go to [unintelligible] I'll work till 12 o'clock then I'll shoot down and I'll take over the [unintelligible]. You start up in the morning. So this is what we did. [Unintelligible. In order to collect ourself?]. Right that's what we started with Larrie there. You understand? And we did that until it was time for me just to put in full time because they had a Neighborhood Youth Corps program where they would have 10 of those kids you know and everybody use to have 60 kids. So when I came again, Larrie said to me "you only gonna have 30 kids. Because you you're going to be doing some things with Hugh Addonizio and me". Right? Now. Well just like she said and sure enough she brings me, she doesn't bring me, that's right, Calvin came to me. And Calvin said to me uh one day he says, "You know Larrie's getting another job Tiny. And I want you to take her around." "What do you mean take her around?" He said, "Well uh you can drive her." And I said, "I don't wanna be no chauffeur. " Like that. He said, "What do you mean you don't wanna be no chauffeur? Tiny you ain't gonna be no chauffeur. She's gotta go places that we haven't been able to go. Well you gotta go too cause you know everybody you know the whole city. You've been going to all these places you know the White guys, you know the bad guys, you know the good guys. And they like you. So you just go with Larrie." And I said "Alright." And he said, "We're gonna get you a, a new car. What kind of car you need?" So they were dealing with that

place that was up there up near West Side you know that car place that used to be a Chrysler place that's where they used to get their cars. And so they got me a car – 4 door Chrysler from down there you know. And I said, "Damn, they treat me better than I thought." So Larrie and the County...[unintelligible]...you gonna go with Larrie. Now. Another thing(?). Even when Larrie got the job and got all of these spots when Addonizio went out Ken tried to give her a hard time. Now. Ken said to me, We got some, he said, uh, Larrie ain't getting along with Ken. I said, "She'll get along with him. He ain't gonna fire her". Cause me and him we got to talking. Now. They didn't understand they said how is it that you went from Addonizio right to Ken. I said you guys think you got (?) Ken ahead of me. I said Ken Gibson used to blow a saxophone before he went to school. I said, And he used to come to Lloyd's Manor. I said, and them guys would not hire him and I was the guy that got that jobs. And he said, "well how did you get jobs?" I said, "well I'm gonna tell you how it was. People think they know everything and don't know a damn thing about what you doing." When I used to make when we did *After Hours* we would do 5000 books. I used to deliver em all over Essex County. Then I'd go to on Saturday, I just did this on Saturday, on Saturday I'd go to Elizabeth. From Elizabeth I went to Jersey City. And Jersey City I used to go up to another little town I forget the name of it I used to go there. He? Said, Well most of these accounts were white accounts. They were tavern owners that owned these places right. So I'm riding it didn't happen right away. But after I was going around a couple times got to talk with some of the white owners you know and they said, "Hey hey look Tiny can you get me a black band?" I said, "How many pieces do you want?" "About four or five I need them for weekends. Could you get a good group?" I said, "Yeah I'll get a good group." Now here's Lloyd's back there Ken Gibson and all the other musicians that used to float in there you understand. So I went to them you know this guy LaRue, LaRue was the guy who would set up all the groups into four or five guys and I'd tell him where the places were at. I didn't I never got no money I never asked him/em for anything because they would sometimes the musicians would always say, "Hey Tiny I wanna give you something" I said, "I don't need that" cuz I was

making it with my [unintelligible] hours and I don't think anybody realized that I had 98 ads I'll bring you copies I got em in the garage. See one thing Bob, if I talk to anybody about it they know that I ain't gonna be lying cause I can tell you, "Next week." You know like a lot of people say "Well you're getting old you might forget." Yeah, I said, "Some things I forget but I know what I did."

RC: Mmmhmm

CB: And I can tell you exactly how things and Ken knew that. See it's just like Barbara Kukla wrote in her book when you get her book uh about all the jazz musicians, she's got a couple of mistakes in there. Cause when I told her she liked'a jumped over the roof

RC: I'm sure.

CB: Cause, she didn't realize she had. I said Hey come on you're calling the guy that owned Lloyd's Manor you're saying his name was Bill [unintelligible] and you're talking about that he won that place in gambling he didn't win no place in gambling. I said did you know his wife...I asked Barbara Kukla have you ever seen his wife? And I says his wife was about 6 feet tall pretty as she could be like a movie star and she looked like she was white. And he was a dark brown skinned guy. And I said his name was Darnell Lloyd not John he didn't make his money gambling cause he wasn't that type of guy and I said he got it because he was selling ice and coal you understand and wood and he had a couple of trucks doing that. [unintelligible] She said, "How do you know him?" I said when I lived on Rector Street his family lived in Wallace Street which was the next block up. She said, "Damn Tiny you know every damn thing you know too much." I said, "No no no. You know, I'm just telling you what his real name is." And his wife's name was Edith. I said., "They knew me they used to straighten my ass out when I was running around as a kid. That's how I knew them." And he was an ex-boxer. She said, "oh he was a boxer?" Yeah he was an ex-boxer! Cause them white guys jumped on him one time because they thought his wife was white and so he liked to beat the hell out of all of 'em you understand? You know and I knew his mother

I knew his brothers. She said, "You know Tiny you been around this town." I said, "No this is where I was born and raised it isn't like I just come up and met somebody". I said, "And I never run around trying to know anybody it's just I knew em because they were in my way of living." [] So when Larrie was talking about when they couldn't get Larrie Larrie said uh Ken said to Larrie, "Larrie why don't you take the county job. Honey says he's got the county job for you." See the cause Dennis Carey had gone and the new guy that was the Jewish guy who was the Democratic chairman he told Honey to get somebody.

RC: Lerner.

CB: Yeah Lerner. And he went and got Larrie. But Larrie wouldn't take the job. And then Larrie I mean [] told Ken about it Ken and Harry Wheeler and neither one of them, he said, neither one guy can talk to Larrie. [unintelligible] He said, "Go get Tiny see if he can talk to her." So I told them, "Maybe she won't do it." They said, "Well ask anyway." So I got after her I said, "Larrie, Larrie you need to take that job." She said to me, "Why should I take it? How do you know that I will get elected?" So I said "Larrie I not only watch Black people come to you and ask you for service when you were with Addonizio and I said there's one thing I always will admire you for what you used to say to em, "I don't know whether I can do it but I'll look into it"" that was her favorite saying. And she would do that. And then when it turned out alright she'd call the people up and tell them they got it. I watched her do it a thousand times. And I said when I was working for her I became more than her friend and a lot of people were making a lot of remarks like "You must be going with her" I said, "No. I said hey I ain't never been like that that's not my style." Yeah I been a man there's no question about it, but I ain't never wanted to work with somebody now I'm messing with them oh no. I'll do the job and I'll prove to them that I can do it better than somebody else. That's all I wanted to do. I said when I was with Larrie I said Addonizio and uh I wanna say this I don't know whether I should say it Bob she was sent to the Bahamas Islands to meet with the guy that really sent Addonizio to jail. He was the guy that guy was the guy he was the principal guy that I guess the state or the Feds used against Addonizio.

RC: As an informer?

CB: Yeah as the informer.

RC: I see.

CB: And I'll never forget.

RC: Why was she sent to meet with him?

CB: I don't know because I never was into that.

RC: Yeah.

CB: I went with her to the Bahamas.

RC: You went with her.

CB: Oh yeah, in fact I went with her he sent her to speak with him in Virginia.

RC: Addonizio did?

CB: I went there.

RC: Oh so Hughy was sending her to the Bahamas?

CB: Huh?

RC: Addonizio sent her to the Bahamas to meet with this guy.

CB: To meet with him.

RC: And this guy was his contact.

CB: Yeah and she went. And I'll never forget when we got there on this island they had a hotel on this end and a hotel on the other end. And the one on what we considered the North is where she had to go

and then she went to meet him and she never said nothing to be about going with her and anything. She told me where I had to take her and I took her and I seen this guy and I'll never forget him. Because him and his wife were on this boat and evidently this was his boat or something and when I was looking at him because I always remember people who wear fine clothes this guy had a white coat on it was all kinda colors not bold or nothing like most of the colored guys would have it too bold for anyone but it was just like faint but when you'd get up to him it was white but yet it would show orange and you know tints into the coat and I always looked at that guy I said that guy is something else I wonder what he does, to myself, you understand. And I'll never forget I had to pick her up I was s'posed to pick her up cause he asked me to come aboard and I said no no no. That's Miss Stalks not me. And that's the way it was. I didn't go with him I didn't do anything.

RC: So during the investigation were you called before the Grand Jury?

CB: No, nobody never called me for anything.

RC: Nobody ever called you.

CB: Never said nothing to me.

RC: Yeah, yeah.

CB: And you know I used to go with Larrie and I'd know the places that she went and they were pretty...these were pretty tough white boys.

RC: Oh yeah.

CB: They [unintelligible]

RC: I'm sure.

CB: And uh one thing I never forget she came back one day she said, "Tiny you got another job?" I said, "Like what Larrie?" Like that, you know. Like we were just kidding you know. She said, "Well you know what they wanna do?" She said, "Some friends told me to ask you would you care to make 500 dollars a week?" And I said, "For what?" She said, "Well they wanted you to become involved with horse racing." I said, "No I don't want none of that, never." You know. I said [] Larrie, I know what kind of people they are and I'm on interested. I said, that's not my thing.

RC: So when you, when you first went to work for Hugh(?) were you aware that he had all these nefarious associations?

CB: (Shakes head). Well, see, you don't even be thinking about that.

RC: Yeah I guess not.

CB: No you see

RC: Cause this was in 62 because he took office in 62

CB: Yeah, yeah

RC: that's when you first began

CB: Yeah, when I first started

RC: when you first began working with him yeah

CB: Because like uh Larrie said after we were [] when I got with Hugh, let me tell you something, like somebody said to me "Well you like Addonizio" I said, "Well I'll tell you something I like Addonizio for one or two reasons" I said, the number one thing about him he didn't discriminate.

RC: Mm-hm.

CB: They said, "Oh you say that because he took care of Larrie." I said mm-mm. With anything, with anything. That wasn't his world. His world wasn't about whether you were black or white it was whether you could do the job.

RC: Right

CB: That's the only thing he was interested in. If you couldn't do the job he didn't want you, if you could do the job then he wanted you.

RC: Right

CB: You understand. I said I never went anywhere and Larrie went. And I know I went to weddings and things weren't no blacks but us but her and I just that way whatever it was and the people that were there when they were introduced to Larrie Larrie introduced me to them. Larrie would say this is the person that takes care of me. [unintelligible] They said "Don't worry about it Larrie nobody's gonna" [unintelligible] you know make cracks at you or say that. Aint nobody gonna bother you or []. And I knew that they weren't they weren't guys that you could fool. That's, one of the reasons I don't know whether they probably have it in the library that I have to say about Addonizio. You got all the black cops, talking all their junk now, now the time is gone, but the Police Dept wasn't integrated until Addonizio came in. Black cops don't know that. They think the Police Dept is like it's always been and it wasn't, you understand but Dick Spina took Minister James, the one that got shot on a 25 to the Newark Public Library on the steps of the NPL where the cops were on one side and Minister James and the Muslims were on the other side. And you'll say well who was that about. That was about the Police that used to run the Muslims off the street when they were selling the newspapers. And do they sell em now they sell em anywhere they want. But they weren't selling em at one time the police used to chase em off the streets you know what I mean? And again when I told a guy the other day...

RC: Addonizio really did affect some important changes.

CB: No.. Irvine Turner.

RC: Irvine Turner

CB: Larrie.

RC: Larrie. Grace Malone.

CB: No, she wasn't in this.

RC: She wasn't in this. She wasn't.

CB: But he was. The guy what I wanted to tell you about was Johnny Barnes Johnny Barnes was in the Newark Human Rights thing he was part of the Agency. I'm the one I told him about that I said they're running those kids off with their papers and I said you know you need to tell them tell Addonizio or something about it let's see what we can do. That's how the meeting came.

RC: And they put it into it?

CB: That's right. Johnny Barnes was the guy. Because he did it through the Human Rights Agency you understand. I told him[unintelligible] when they make me mad I said um you niggers couldn't you don't know your way outta nothing. You understand? And I used to say that. You know some of them'd get make at me. "Uh I don't know what he's talking about". No I said you don't know cause you weren't here.

RC: So this leaflet here it says that the 50s were a time of hope.

CB: It was.

RC: And, what I'd like to ask you is why do you think it was a time of hope in the 1950s?

CB: Well can I tell you something cause a guy like this would be saying that.

RC: What's..

CB: Remember you had a lot of people that were under the Republicans. They were electing them, it's not that they weren't electing them that's crap but they only gave us just a little. You know it's like letting you see but yet you can't see.

RC: Right giving you a little glimpse.

CB: Little little that's all.

RC: A glimpse.

CB: You know uh Curvin let me tell you something like I talked with I was talking with some guy he said, "You know Tiny, you know all of these." I said, "Yeah I know a lot more that you guys don't know." I said, "Did you know that Persus Sutton came from NY came over here to see Irvine Turner?" And this was a time when we had a...when the Eisenhower Administration remember we had a same thing that we have now but it wasn't as bad. I said, "Let me tell you what happened". What do you think he came here for? He came here to get 200 people from Irvine Turner to come over and help Adam Clayton Powell running. And he said what do you mean [] he said he wanted them people to come to New York and to show them how to use the voting machine. And he said, "what do you mean,[they ain't voting."] No they didn't Taminy Hall beat us because they had paper ballots. And he Percy Sutton who just passed and somebody said Do you know Percy Sutton I said you wanna make a bet I said I wish he was living. I said, you don't know how well I knew him. I said when Sarah Vaughan passed and they were having her funeral out there on Broadway I said and they had the Hearse and the white horses to take her body to the cemertery Percy Sutton and Ralph Cooper the actor and disc jockey was in front. You said, "Tiny did you know them." I said, "They spoke to me I didn't speak to them". They said, "whatta you mean?" I said, "the guy said Percy Sutton he said, 'Hey Tiny! Tiny I didn't know you were still around!'" I said, "What do you mean I'm still around?" We started laughing. And Ralph Cooper said, Percy says to Ralph,

“you know Tiny?” He said, “hell yeah he used to come down to 25th street when I was a disc jockey”.

And I said yeah when I was on my way to the Savoy Ballroom. So they said, “That’s how long you knew him Percy Sutton?” I said, “Yeah he used to tell me ‘Come to New York if you need anything’.” I can help you.

RC: So the 50s then were a hope was a time of hope for you. Because there was so much going on.

CB: It was a time of hope. It was a change because ‘member we were there were a time that some of us got up and abused Dennis Carey. Dennis Carey used to have his meetings and if you check it you’ll find out in the Terrace Ballroom. Now, the only way we started going to the Terrace Ballroom was on account of the war. Because we weren’t allowed in the Terrace Ballroom as people who went to affairs and all that kind of stuff. But when the war started what happened they couldn’t go to Nut..that place all there on the highway where they used to have all the big white bands...they couldn’t go there and they started coming to the Terrace Ballroom the white people, not us. But they invited us there during the wartime when they were having a big push for Blacks to become involved. And some people white people and black people who were working at the [] Companies, that were in the remember they were in the Central Ward right. On 18th Avenue you had one and the n you had another big factory. And women that were there came and got me and said “Tiny you’re a dancer”. I said, yeah I said sure. This was when Savoy was open and I went to Savoy every week. Wasn’t nothing for me to go to...because that was our only outlet we didn’t have no other place to go. We weren’t going to the exhibitions like in the Rennasaince [?] or anything. We weren’t going to that, we were going to the stuff that happened in NJ and the Rennies used to come here. Used to come here to all the Ys. Court Street Y you understand. When you tell people that they said, “well I didn’t know there was a Y on Court Street”. I say, “Well you don’t know nothing about Newark.” You understand? Now that other Y that the Jewish people had that was on the corner of High and Spruce that was always there but we weren’t able to join to that. The last person I seen to me that integrated for me that place was Louis Armstrong when Louis Armstrong

played there. I tried to crash tried to get in the back way and Slim O'Neal caught us. I'll never forget that Louis Armstrong was there. And I...we had never been in that Y before. So you gotta remember what was happening amongst all the people you understand. And like when I tell people about the Y and what the Lindyhoppers did I said a lot of you used to go to the Savoy and they'd abuse you if you come from out of town and they knew that you come from Newark or something they'd say, "Hey get them country bumpkins out of town." And it was us that made it possible for you to go there and we didn't fight him or nothing. But I'll tell you something there was a guy who was a big bold guy about 6 foot tall called Blue his name was Richard Hamilton we used to call him Blue.

RC: Blue?

CB: Blue. And he was a basketball player and he had played in New York and when them teams would come through here go to the Ys they would go to all the Ys up in Orange and they would you know come through Newark go to the Newark Y. So here's what he would tell guys in the Savoy. You can mess with us but I'll tell you this when your people come into New Jersey and go to the Ys we'll be waiting for you. Just threatened him. Honest to god, I'm not, you know, this is what I heard this guy say to him. And you know from then on we never had no more trouble going to the Savoy. But that's what they learned. They said, you have to play the Newark Ys in Jersey we'll be there waiting for you.

RC: Tiny I want to continue this this is a great start okay and you promise me that we can do at least another one.

CB: Of course.

RC: That would be fabulous.

CB: Let me tell you something. I'm not coming here just. I'm coming here because Fannie told me so. Bob Curvin wanna talk to you. I said, I thought he was kidding.

RC: I'm gonna show you..give you a list of...

[14:40]